

### **Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application (material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~, or if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see then it is in double brackets [[ ]]).

1. (original) A coating composition that is curable in air to a protective film, comprising a binder and a reactive diluent that comprises one or more carboxylic acids with the formula  $R^1-(C=O)-OH$ , where  $R^1$  has 8 to 35 carbons and includes an ester linkage.
2. (original) The coating composition of claim 1, where the coating composition has a volatile organic compound content of less than 30 grams per liter.
3. (original) The coating composition of claim 1, where  $R^1$  has the formula  $R^2-(C=O)-O-R^3-$ ,  $R^2$  is a moiety of 3 to 23 carbons, and  $R^3$  is a linker of 1 to 16 carbons.
4. (original) The coating composition of claim 3, where  $R^2$  has 8 to 21 carbons.
5. (original) The coating composition of claim 3, where  $R^3$  has 2 to 4 carbons.
6. (original) The coating composition of claim 1, where the binder is an alkyd that is present at a concentration of up to about 15% by weight.
7. (original) The coating composition of claim 6, where the alkyd and reactive diluent are present in a weight ratio of about 5:1 to about 1:5.
8. (original) The coating composition of claim 1, where the reactive diluent is present at a concentration of up to about 15% by weight.

9. (original) The coating composition of claim 1, where R<sup>1</sup> has 18 to 23 carbons and at least one unsaturated carbon-carbon bond.

10. (original) The coating composition of claim 1, where the reactive diluent is an ester condensation product of at least one fatty acid and a hydroxy carboxylic acid.

11. (original) The coating composition of claim 10, where the hydroxy carboxylic acid has two to seventeen carbons.

12. (original) The coating composition of claim 10, where the reactive diluent is an ester condensation product of a linseed oil fatty acid and lactic acid.

13. (original) A reactive diluent mixture for use in a coating composition that is curable to a protective film, where the reactive diluent mixture is produced by ester condensation of lactic acid and a mixture of at least two fatty acids obtained from linseed oil.

14. (original) A coating composition that is curable to a protective film, comprising an alkyd, an acrylic resin, and a coupling agent.

15. (original) The coating composition of claim 14, where total volatile organic compound content is less than about 30 grams per liter.

16. (original) The coating composition of claim 14, where the coupling agent is present at a concentration of up to about 2% by weight and includes titanium or zirconium.

17. (original) The coating composition of claim 14, further comprising a reactive diluent, where the alkyd:reactive diluent weight ratio is about 5:1 to about 1:5.

18. (original) The coating composition of claim 14, where the acrylic resin is present at a concentration of about 2% to about 20% by weight.

19. (original) The coating composition of claim 14, further comprising a polyether polyol.

20. (original) The coating composition of claim 19, where the polyether polyol includes an ethoxylated polyol.

21. (original) The coating composition of claim 19, further comprising a multi-functional acrylate monomer.

22-76. (cancelled)